Tobacco prevention: Knowledge and attitude of oncology nurses in a tertiary care hospital of the national capital of India

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Abstract

Introduction: Tobacco use has alarmingly increased over the years across the world. Nurses have a pivotal role in facilitating comprehensive care in tobacco prevention. It ensures to curb the mortality and morbidity of tobacco related diseases including cancer. Therefore, the knowledge and attitude of nurses is an indispensable ingredient in delivering effective health education especially in oncology settings. Methods: A descriptive survey was undertaken on a sample of 45 nurses working in the Department of Medical Oncology of All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi after obtaining institutional ethical clearance. The subjects were assessed using self-developed knowledge questionnaire and 5-point Likert attitude scale. Reliability and validity of the tool were established. Reliability was evaluated by test-retest method and the Chronbach alpha was found to be 0.88 for knowledge questionnaire and 0.86 for attitude scale. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results: More than half had moderate knowledge about the prevention of tobacco use 31 (69%) followed by good knowledge with 8 (18%) and 6 (13%) had poor knowledge. Majority of the oncology ward nurses 32 (71%) had positive attitude and 13 (29%) had neutral attitude. There was a weak positive correlation found between present experience and knowledge regarding prevention of tobacco use.

Key words: Tobacco, oncology, nurses, knowledge, attitude